APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/172,261	10/14/1998	HIROHIKO ITO	35.G2265	9043

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EXAMINER
WORKU, NEGUSSIE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2624	

DATE MAILED: 04/09/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _24 January 2002_ .

2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.   2b) ☐ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) _1-21_ is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) _1-21_ is/are rejected.

7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.

    If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:

        1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

        2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

        3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

    a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

JEROME GRANT II
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ .
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: .

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Farrell et al. (USP 5, 422,743).

With regard to claim 1, Farrell et al. teaches an image input and output method, see (2 of fig 2) in which image data is input from at least one image input section (6 of fig 3), and the input image data is output to at least one image output section, (8 of fig 3) comprising the steps of: dividing image processing of one image processing unit (25 of fig 3) to be performed into an image input job in which image data is input from the image input section (24 of fig 3) and into an image output job in which image data is output to the image output section; (87 of fig 3) controlling execution of the image input job and execution of the image output job independently; see (col.4, lines 40) and after a preceding image input job is finished (120 of fig 3) starting a subsequent image input job before the image output job corresponding to the preceding image input job is finished.

With respect to claim 2, Farrell et al. teaches an image input (6 of fig 2)

and output method (2 of fig 3) wherein image data is input and stored in an

image storage section (56 of fig 3) for the image input job, and image data is

read from the image storage section (56 of fig 3) and output in the image output

job.

With regard to claim 3, Farrell et al. teaches an image input and output

method (6 & 8 of fig 3) wherein at least one of image data obtained by reading

an original image, (20 of fig 3) image data developed from code data expressing

an image, see (col.5, lines 40) and image data received from an external unit,

(24 of fig 3) is input in the image input job.

With regard to claim 4, Farrell et al. teaches an image input and output (6

& 8 of fig 2) method wherein image data is output to at least one of a printer

section (8 of fig 3) printing an image and a transmission section (60 of fig 3)

transmitting an image in the image output job, (87 of fig 3).

With regard to claim 5, Farrell et al. teaches an image input and output (6 & 8 of

fig 3) method further comprising the step of creating a plurality of management tables

(5a-5d of fig 7) which hold information used for managing the image input job and the

image output job, (5a -5d of fig 7), see (col.6, lines 5- 25)

With regard to claim 6, Farrell et al. teaches an image input and output method (fig 2) wherein the execution of the image input job and that of the image output (6 & 8 of fig 3) job are independently controlled, see (col.4, lens 40-45) in said controlling step according to the information held in the plurality of management tables, see (5a-5d of fig 7).

With regard to claim 7, Farrell teaches an image input and output apparatus (2 of fig 2) comprising: input means (24 of fig 3) for inputting image data from at least one image input section; (6 of fig 3) output means (87 of fig 3) for outputting Image data to at least one image output section; (8 of fig 3) obtaining means for obtaining image-processing parameters, which regulate image processing of one image processing unit (25 of fig 3) to be performed; and controlling means (7 of fig 3) for controlling an input of image data, (fig 3) and an output of image data according to the image processing parameter obtained by, said obtaining means; (24 of fig 3) wherein said controlling means, (7 of fig 3) divides the image processing of the one image processing unit (25 of fig 3) expressed by the image processing parameters, see (Col.4, lines 23-25) obtained by the obtaining means (24 of fig 3) into an image input job in which image data is input by said image input means (6 of fig 3) and an image of the image input job and execution of the image output job independently; (60 of fig 3) and after a preceding image input job is finished starts a subsequent image input job before the image output job corresponding to the preceding image input job is finished.

With regard to claim 8, Farrell et al. teaches an image input and output apparatus (fig 3), further comprising storage means (56 of fig 3) for storing image data, see (col.4, line 60) wherein the image data input by said input means (24 of fig 3) is stored into said image storage means (56 of fig 3) in the image input job, and the image data read from said image storage means (56 of fig 3) is output by said output means (8 of fig 3) in the image output job.

With regard to claim 9, Farrell et al. teaches an image input and output Apparatus (fig 3) wherein at least one of image data obtained by reading an original image data developed from code data expressing an image, and image data received from an external unit (56 of fig 3) is input by said input means (24 of fig 3) in the image input job.

With regard to claim 10, Farrell et al. teaches an image input and output apparatus (fig 3) to wherein image data is output by said output means (8 of fig 3) to at least one of a printer section (95 of fig 3) printing an image and a transmission sections transmitting (60 of fig 3) an image.

With regard to claim 11, Farrell teaches an image input (6 of fig 3) and output apparatus (8 of fig 3) wherein said controlling means (7 of fig 3) comprises a plurality of management tables, see (fig 5a-5d) which holds Information used for managing the image-input job and the image output job.

With regard to claim 12, Farrell teaches an image input and output apparatus (fig 3) wherein said controlling means (7 of fig 3) independently controls the execution of the image input job (50 of fig 3) and that of the image output job (60 of fig 3) according to the information held in the plurality of management tables, see (fig 5a-5d).

With regard to claim 13, Farrell teaches an image-input means (6 of fig 3) an image processing system (54 of fig 3) in which image data input by at least one image-input means (24 of fig 3) is output by at least one image output means, (87 of fig 3) comprising: obtaining means (6 of fig 3) for obtaining image Processing parameters, see (col.4, lines 23-25) which regulate image Processing of one image processing unit (54 of fig 3) to be performed; and controlling means (7 of fig 3), for controlling an input of image data and an output of image data according to the image processing parameter, see (col.4, line 2325) obtained by said obtaining means; (24 of fig 3) wherein said controlling means: (7 of fig 3) divides the image processing of the one image Processing unit (54 of fig 3) expressed by the image processing parameters obtained by the obtaining means (24 of fig 3) into an image input job in which The image-input means (24 o fig 3) and an image output input image data Job in which image data is output by said output means (8 of fig 3) controls execution of the image input job and execution of the image output job independently; (7 of fig 3), see (col.4, lines 40-45) and after a preceding image input

job is finished, starts a subsequent image input job before the image output job

corresponding to the preceding image input job is finished, see (120 of fig 3).

With regard to claim 14, Farrell et al. an image processing system (fig 3) further

comprising storage means (56 of fig 3) for storing image data, wherein the image data

input by said input image data read from said image storage means (56 o fig 3) is

output by said output means (8 of fig 3) in the image output job.

With regard to claim 15, Farrell et al. an image processing system (fig 3)

wherein the image input means (24 of fig 3) inputs at least one of image data obtained

by reading an original image, (24 of fig 3) image data developed from

code data expressing an image, and image data received from an external unit,

(56 of fig 3).

With regard to claim 16, Farrell et al. an image processing system (fig 3) according to

wherein the image output means (8 of fig 3) performs at least one of image printing (95

of fig 3) according to image data and image-data transmission.

With regard to claim 17, Farrell teaches an image processing system (fig

3) Wherein said controlling means (7 of fig 3) comprises a plurality of

management tables, see (fig 5a-5b) which hold information used for managing

the image-input job and the image output job (6 & 8 fig 3).

With regard to claim 18, Farrell teaches an image processing system (fig 3) wherein said controlling means (7 of fig 3) independently controls the execution of the image input job and that of the image output job, see col.4, Lines 40-45) according to the information held in the plurality of management tables, see (fig 5a-5b).

With respect to claims 19, 20 and 21, Farrell et al. teaches an image input (scanner 6 of fig 3) and output (printer 8 of fig 3) method wherein said interface section (interface 52 connection to computer 54) connects to a computer (52 of fig.3) or a facsimile apparatus.

Response to the Arguments

3.   Applicant's arguments filed January 24, 2002 have been respectfully considered but are not found persuasive.

With regard to the rejection based on Farrell et al. (U.S.P. 5,422,743) applicant argues that the prior art does not disclose the features of "dividing image processing into an image input job and independently managing the divided image input job and the image output job, and after a preceding image input job is finished, starting a subsequent input job before the image output job corresponding to the preceding image input job is finished," as stated at page 10 of 1st paragraph.

However, the Examiner strongly believes the prior art used against the invention

is read upon the limitation of the claims as it is claimed broadly.

As it is clearly indicated and discussed in the office action above the feature of

dividing image processing device, (processor 25 of fig 3), process image into an image

input job (scanner or by CCD 24 of fig 3), and image output job (printer 8 of fig 3).

controller 7 of fig 3, managing the input, and the output job independently by image

input controller 50 of fig 5, and output controller 60 of fig 3 which are linked to the

system control. And after the input job by input scanner is finished the printing job is

continue by printer 8 of fig 3.

Therefore, the present invention is not distinguishable over the prior art for the

reasons, Examiner respectfully reject the independent claims 1, 7, and 13 are not

patently defined over the cited prior art.

4. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time

policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE

MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of
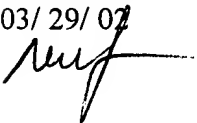
the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later

than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

5.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from

Examiner should be directed to Negussie Worku whose telephone number is

(703) 305 5441. The Examiner can normally be reached on M-F lam- 6 pm if

attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's

Supervisor, David Moore, can be reached on (703) 308-7452. The fax phone number

for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9314

and any inquiry of general nature or relating to the status of this application or

proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)

305-9000.

Negussie Worku
03/ 29/ 02

JEROME GRANT II
PRIMARY EXAMINER